

2006 Draft 303(d) List: Public Notice

February 23, 2006

Dear Stakeholder:

We are pleased to announce that the **draft 2006, 303(d) List of Impaired Surface Waters** is now available for review and comment on the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) website at www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/swqa. Comments will be accepted until March 23, 2006. Guidance for submitting comments is also included on the website mentioned above.

What is a 303(d) List of Impaired Surface Waters?

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act [PL92-500, commonly called the Clean Water Act (CWA)], as last reauthorized by the Water Quality Act of 1987, requires each state to submit a list of impaired waters to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) every two years. The document is typically called the “303(d) List “ which is so named because it is a requirement of Section 303(d) of the CWA. The 303(d) List includes surface waters that are:

- impaired or threatened by a pollutant or pollutant(s),
- not expected to meet water quality standards within a reasonable time even after application of best available technology standards for point sources or best management practices for nonpoint sources and,
- require development and implementation of a comprehensive water quality study (i.e., called a Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL study) that is designed to meet water quality standards.

Report Format

- The draft list is available in two forms:
 - A PDF file of all 303(d) impaired waters sorted by Assessment Unit ID
 - A spreadsheet (EXCEL file) which may be downloaded and then sorted or filtered as desired.

The reviewer is strongly encouraged to read the Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM) for definitions and details regarding how this list was developed. The 2006 CALM is available on the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) website at www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/swqa.

Determining the extent and location of Assessment Units using Maps

To help determine the extent and/or location of assessment units (AUs), visual aids such as maps are very useful. Unfortunately, the mapping capabilities developed for the 2004 assessment have not yet been updated for the 2006 cycle but will be prior to issuance of the final 303 (d) list. Although not updated, the 2004 maps can be still be used to locate the vast majority of AUs in 2006, as more than 99% of the fresh waterbodies remain unchanged from 2004. .

To determine the extent and location of the majority of 2006 assessment units using maps, please follow the directions below.

Go to www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/swqa.,

Click on “Final 2004 Section 305(b) and 303(d) Surface Water Quality Report “,

Click on “How to find the Assessment Unit Number (AUID) for any surface water”,

Click on “2004 - [GIS Method for Finding the Location of a Surface Water, its AUID and Its Assessment Status](#)” (please be aware that the assessment status provided on this website is for 2004 and has not been updated for 2006).

With regards to tidal waters, the AUs for 2006 have been revised to correspond with the latest shellfish classification zones. To see maps showing the spatial extent of the shellfishing zones, please go to <http://www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/shellfish/openclosed.htm>

We hope you find our list and website informative and useful. Should you have comments, please be sure to submit them in accordance with the guidance provided on the website.

Thank you,

Ken Edwardson
NHDES, Watershed Management Bureau,
Water Quality Planning Section

2006 Draft 303(d) List: Guidance for Submitting Comments

Guidance for Submitting Comments on the Draft 2006, 303(d) List of Impaired Surface Waters for New Hampshire

Introduction:

In accordance with Sections 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) has prepared an assessment of surface water quality in New Hampshire. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for submitting comments on this assessment.

Documents for Public Review and Comment:

- The results of the draft 2006, 303(d) List of Impaired Surface Waters and the methodology used to assess waters in 2006 are available for review and comment on the DES website at www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/swqa.
- The draft list is available in two forms:
 - A PDF file of all 303(d) impaired waters sorted by Assessment Unit ID
 - An EXCEL file which may be downloaded and then sorted and filtered as desired.

Comment Requirements:

DES encourages submission of all comments. However to be considered for changes to the final 2006 assessment, the data or information must:

- Clearly identify the surface water(s) and geographic extent of concern
- Explicitly describe evidence for support or impairment of designated use(s)
- Include documentation of quality assurance methods used in the collection, analysis and reporting of data
- Comments must be received by DES by March 23rd, 2006.

How to Submit Comments:

Comments and submissions during the public comment period must be in written form to provide an accurate record of your concerns. Comments will not be accepted by phone. Written comments may be sent by mail, fax or e-mail to the appropriate address shown below.

By mail:	2006, 303(d) Comments New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Watershed Management Bureau
----------	--

29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095
Attention: Ken Edwardson.

By e-mail: 303dcomment@des.state.nh.us

By fax: (603) 271-7894

